

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1267

ANSWERED ON:26.11.2007

EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR TELECOM SERVICES

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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the mobile service in rural areas of the country specially in Gujarat and Jharkhand, Bangalore city is very poor and unsatisfactory;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of places where the service is poor;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of mobile service in the said States alongwith the expansion and development plan;
- (d) the number of towers installed in the country specially in Gujarat during the last three years, location-wise;
- (e) the population and area of Jharkhand covered by Mobile Telephone Service;
- (f) whether any review has been conducted regarding working of officials of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL); and (g) if so, the result thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b) Sir, Mobile services of BSNL in rural areas of the country including Gujarat, Jharkhand and Karnataka are satisfactory in general. As on 31.10.2007, BSNL has provided mobile services in rural areas covering around 12,703 villages having population more than 5000. In addition, the mobile system of the Highways/Railway route is providing incidental coverage to a number of rural areas falling en-route. As a result, 213749 villages are already getting covered by mobile communication. BSNL is now expanding its network progressively to cover all the remaining villages having population greater than 5000 on priority. BSNL has also envisaged to cover all the villages having population greater than 1000 in the coming years.

(c) BSNL is augmenting its mobile network progressively so as to enhance coverage, capacity and Quality of Service (QoS). Target for augmentation of the mobile network during the year 2007-08 in the following States is as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of State	Target
1	Gujarat	432000
2	Jharkhand	216000
3	Karnataka	539000

BSNL is also optimizing its network for its performance continuously and monitoring of the network has been strengthened to ensure performance as per the QoS parameters prescribed by TRAI.

(d) Number of BTS cellsites for GSM based cellular mobile service of BSNL commissioned during last 3 years (Circle-wise) is given in the Annexure.

(e) As on 31.10.2007 BSNL has provided mobile services covering a round 93.5 lakh population spread in around 10552 sq. kms areas in the State of Jharkhand

(f) & (g) Regular review about the working of all officials of BSNL at all levels is undertaken and based on yearly performance, Annual confidential report is also written as per prescribed procedure.